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(54) **CARGO COVER ASSEMBLIES AND VEHICLES INCORPORATING THE SAME**

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B60N 2/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(2013.01); **B60N 2/3065** (2013.01); **B60N**
2/3079 (2013.01); **B60N 2/36** (2013.01); **B60R**
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B60N 2/36; B60N 2/3011; B60N 2/3065

See application file for complete search history.

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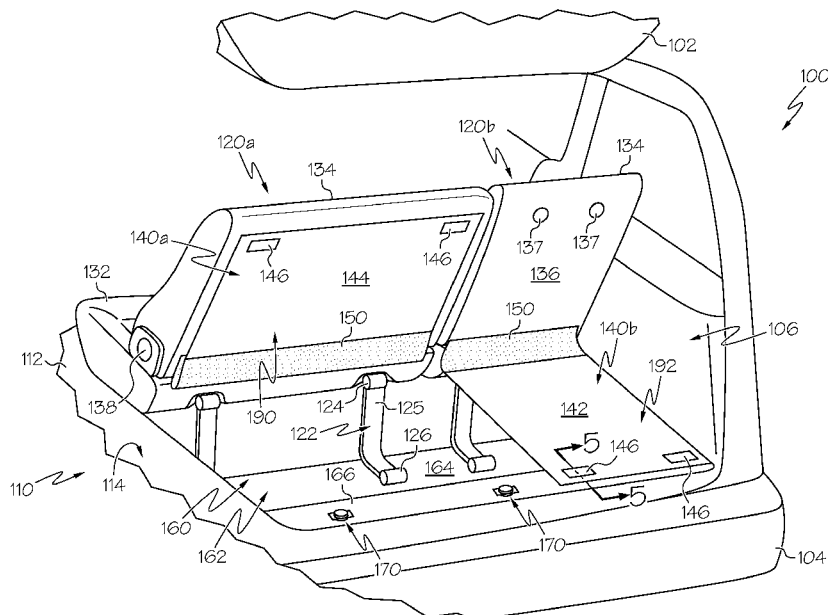
Assistant Examiner — Melissa A Black

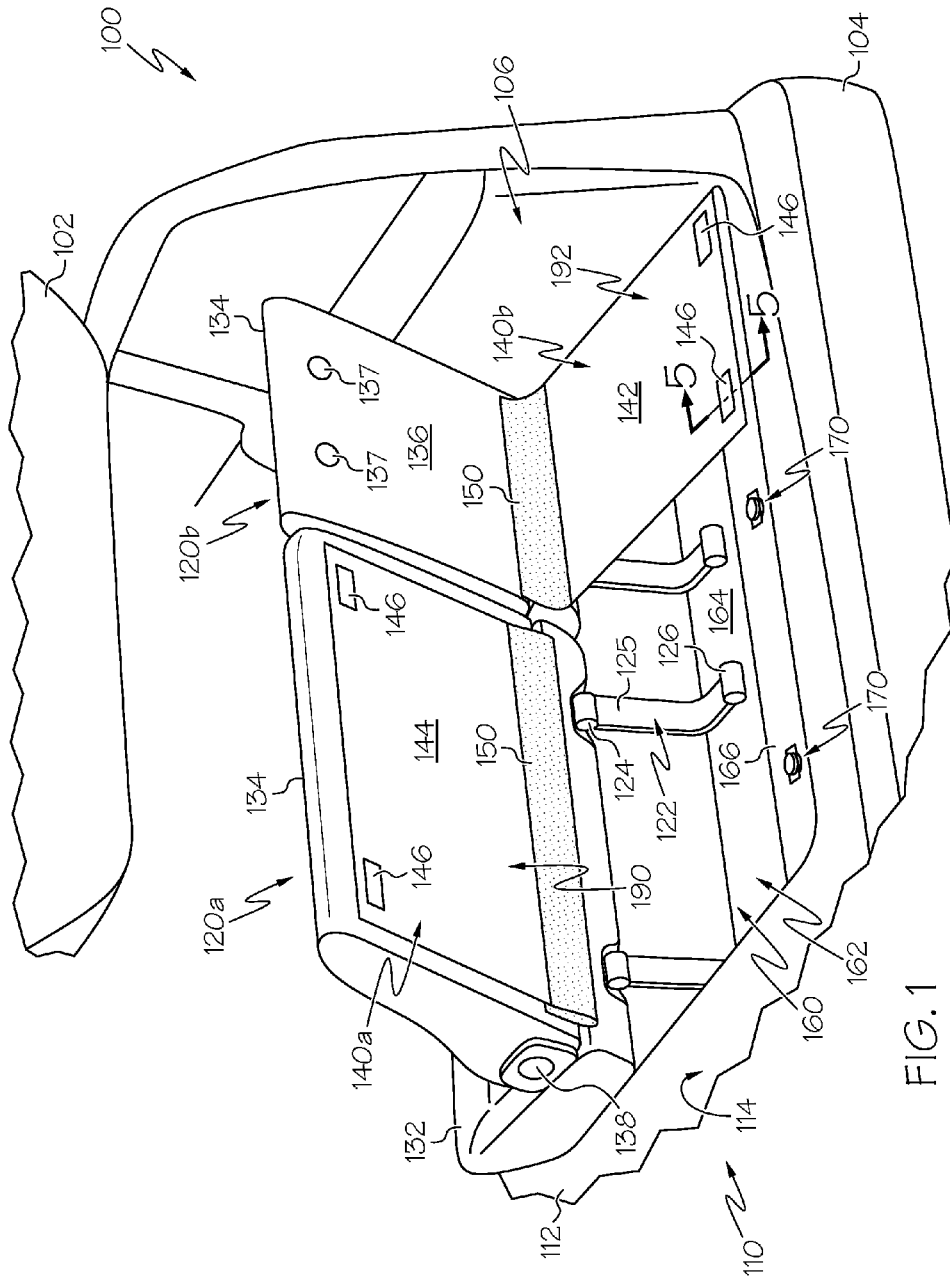
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A vehicle cargo assembly including a vehicle floor having a top surface and a storage compartment having an opening at the top surface of the vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor. A vehicle seat includes a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion at a seat folding location. A cargo cover is coupled to the vehicle seat and is pivotable between a seat upright extended position and a seat upright retracted position. When the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position, the cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





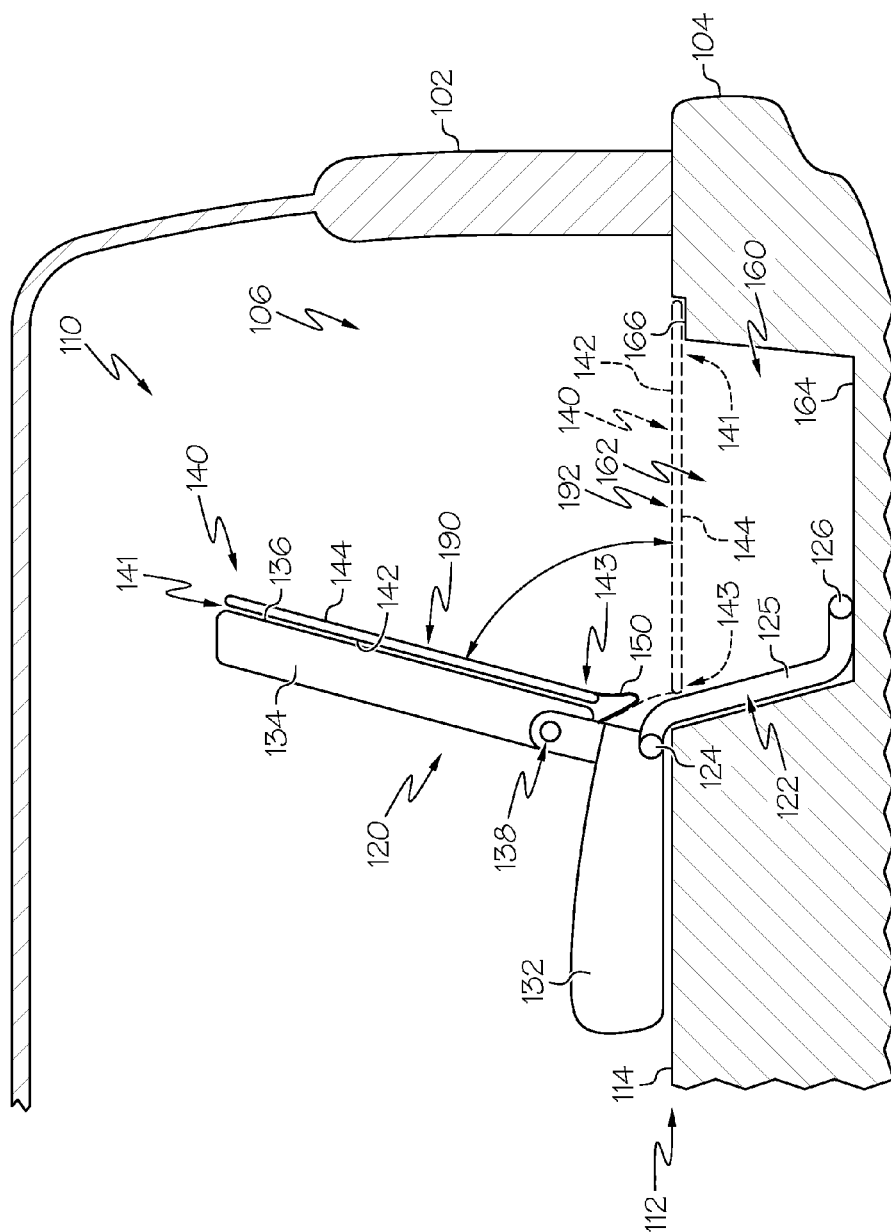
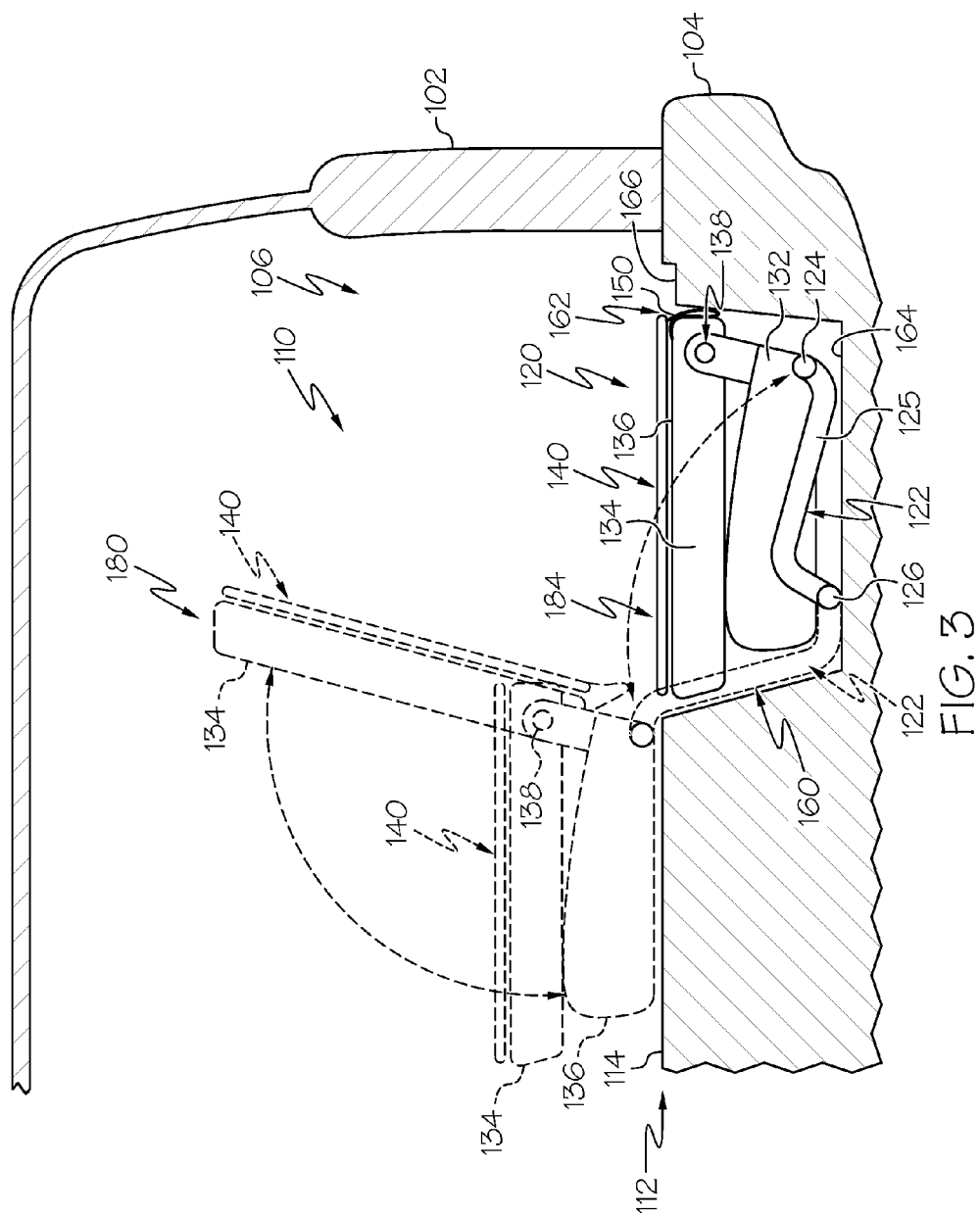


FIG. 2



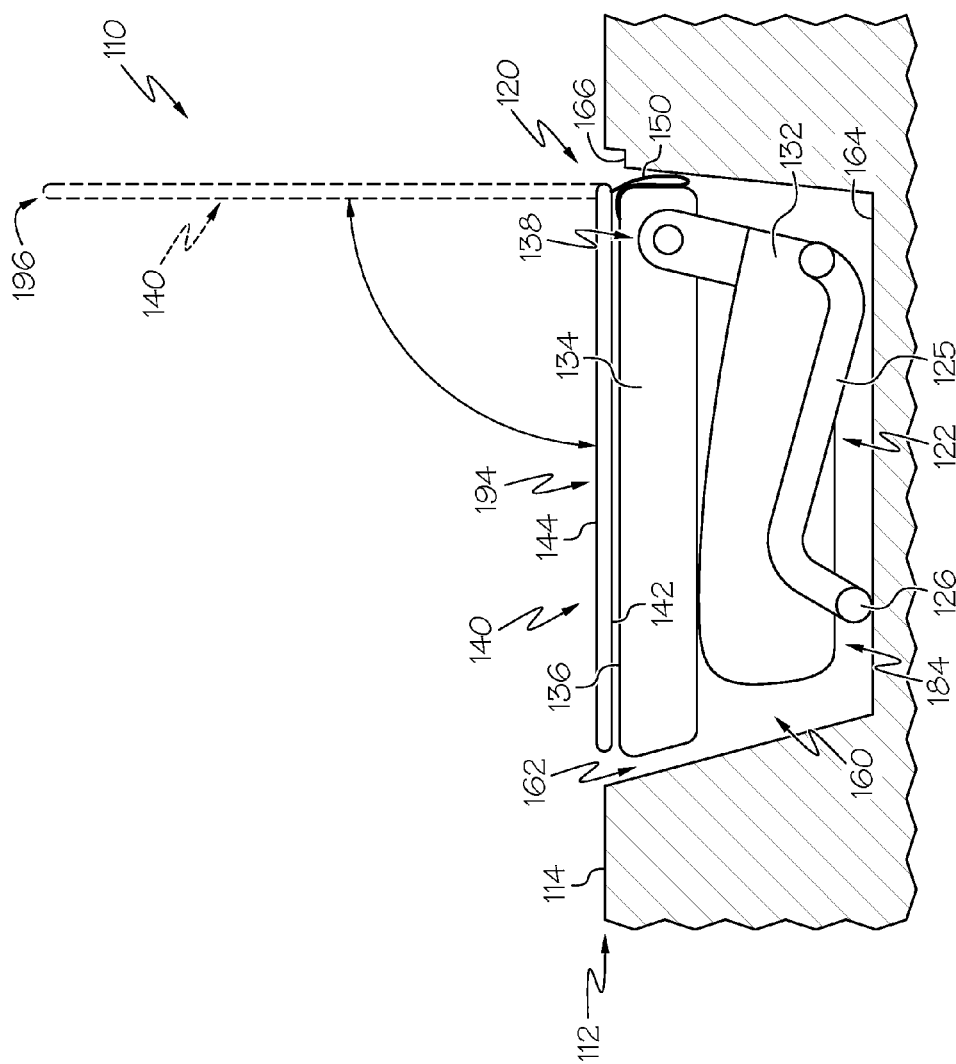


FIG. 4

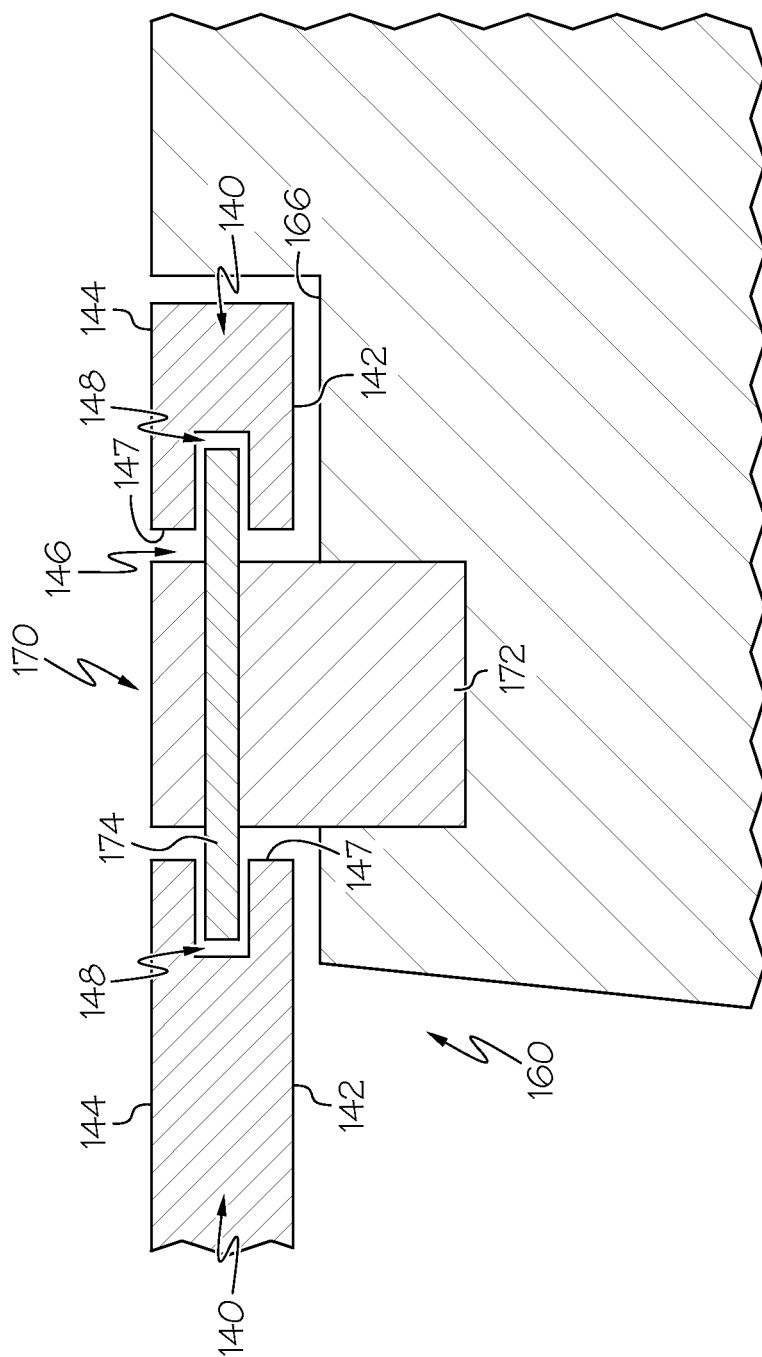


FIG. 5.

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CARGO COVER ASSEMBLIES AND VEHICLES INCORPORATING THE SAME

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present specification generally relates to vehicles having cargo cover assemblies and, more particularly, to vehicles having cargo covers coupled to vehicle seats and engageable with storage compartments.

BACKGROUND

Cargo carrying locations may be positioned throughout a vehicle to provide storage locations for a user to place items. For example, cargo carrying locations may be positioned in the rear of the vehicle or near one or more vehicle seats. However, cargo carrying locations can be unsecured and visible from the windows of a vehicle. Further, cargo carrying locations may be located in the limited space within the cabin of the vehicle, for example, behind or between the vehicle seats.

Accordingly, there is a desire for vehicle cargo assemblies that can securely cover a storage compartment and provide a user with a secured storage compartment extending into the floor of a vehicle.

SUMMARY

In one embodiment, a vehicle cargo assembly includes a vehicle floor having a top surface and a storage compartment having an opening at the top surface of the vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor. A vehicle seat includes a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion at a seat folding location. A cargo cover is coupled to the vehicle seat and is pivotable between a seat upright extended position and a seat upright retracted position. When the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position, the cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment.

In another embodiment, a vehicle cargo assembly includes a vehicle floor having a top surface and a storage compartment having an opening at the top surface of the vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor. A vehicle seat includes a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion at a seat folding location. One or more seat legs extend between the bench portion and a storage compartment floor, the one or more seat legs pivotably coupled to the bench portion and pivotably coupled to the storage compartment floor such that the vehicle seat is moveable between an upright position, where the vehicle seat is positioned adjacent the storage compartment, and a stored position, where the vehicle seat is positioned within the storage compartment. A cargo cover is coupled to the vehicle seat and is pivotable between a seat upright extended position and a seat upright retracted position when the vehicle seat is positioned in the upright position. The cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment when positioned in the seat upright extended position and the cargo cover is positioned along the back portion of the vehicle seat when positioned in the seat upright retracted position.

In yet another embodiment, a vehicle cargo assembly includes a cargo cover pivotably coupled to a vehicle seat using an extendable hinge and a storage compartment having an opening at the top surface of the vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor. The storage compartment is positioned behind the vehicle seat

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when the vehicle seat is in an upright position and includes a locking surface engageable with the cargo cover. The cargo cover is pivotable between a seat upright retracted position and a seat upright extended position when the vehicle seat is in the upright position. When the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position the cargo cover covers an opening of the storage compartment and extends in a plane of the vehicle floor. The vehicle seat is foldable into a stored position within the storage compartment. The cargo cover is pivotable between a seat stored retracted position and a seat stored extended position when the vehicle seat is in the stored position.

These and additional features provided by the embodiments described herein will be more fully understood in view of the following detailed description, in conjunction with the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The embodiments set forth in the drawings are illustrative and exemplary in nature and not intended to limit the subject matter defined by the claims. The following detailed description of the illustrative embodiments can be understood when read in conjunction with the following drawings, where like structure is indicated with like reference numerals and in which:

FIG. 1 depicts a partial perspective view of a vehicle having a vehicle cargo assembly according to one or more embodiments described herein;

FIG. 2 depicts a vehicle cargo assembly including vehicle seat having a cargo cover according to one or more embodiments described herein;

FIG. 3 depicts a vehicle seat foldable into a storage compartment according to one or more embodiments described herein;

FIG. 4 depicts a vehicle cargo assembly including a vehicle seat having a cargo cover folded into a storage compartment according to one or more embodiments described herein; and

FIG. 5 depicts a locking mechanism of a cargo cover according to one or more embodiments described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the present disclosure are directed to vehicles having cargo cover assemblies. The cargo cover assemblies may include one or more cargo covers pivotably coupled to one or more vehicle seats positioned adjacent to one or more storage compartments. The one or more vehicle seats include a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion. The cargo cover can be pivotably coupled to the back portion of the vehicle seat and pivotable between a seat upright extended position and a seat upright retracted position. When the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position, the cargo cover can cover an opening of the storage compartment positioned along a vehicle floor. When the cargo cover is in the seat upright retracted position, the cargo cover can be positioned along the back portion of the vehicle seat. The cargo cover can be locatable in either of the seat upright extended position or the seat upright retracted position.

Referring now to FIG. 1, a partial perspective view of a vehicle 100 including a vehicle cargo assembly 110 is depicted. The vehicle cargo assembly 110 depicted in FIG. 1 includes two vehicle seats 120a and 120b. While two vehicle seats 120a and 120b are depicted, it should be understood that any number of vehicle seats 120 are con-

templated, for example, one vehicle seat, three vehicle seats, or more. The vehicle seats **120a**, **120b** depicted are third row fold flat seats. It should be understood that the present disclosure may include any type of vehicle seat, including front seats, bucket seats, bench seats, first row seats, second row seats, third row seats, and the like. The vehicle seats **120a**, **120b** may be positioned adjacent to a storage compartment **160** such that the storage compartment **160** is positioned between the vehicle seats **120a**, **120b** and a back door **102** and bumper **104** of the vehicle **100**. As depicted in FIG. 1, the storage compartment **160** may comprise a storage compartment opening **162** and may extend below a top surface **114** of a vehicle floor **112**. Further, the storage compartment **160** may be positioned within the rear storage area **106** of the vehicle **100**.

Referring still to FIG. 1, each vehicle seat **120a**, **120b** includes a back portion **134** pivotably coupled to a bench portion **132** at a seat folding location **138**. In some embodiments, the vehicle seats **120a**, **120b** further include a headrest coupled to the back portion **134**. The vehicle seats **120a**, **120b** are coupled to the vehicle **100** using one or more seat legs **122**. In some embodiments, the seat legs **122** may extend between the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112** and the bench portion **132** of the vehicle seat **120**. In other embodiments, the seat legs **122** extend below the vehicle floor **112**, for example, between the bench portion **132** and a storage compartment floor **164**. In some embodiments, the bench portion **132** can be positioned above and along the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**.

The vehicle cargo assembly **110** depicted in FIG. 1 further includes two cargo covers **140a** and **140b**. A first cargo cover **140a** is pivotably coupled to the first vehicle seat **120a** and a second cargo cover **140b** is pivotably coupled to the second vehicle seat **120b**. As described in greater detail below, each cargo cover **140a**, **140b** can be pivoted between a seat upright retracted position **190** where a seat-facing surface **142** is located nearer the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120a**, **120b**, and a seat upright extended position **192** where a seat-facing surface **142** is located farther from the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120a**, **120b**. In FIG. 1, the first cargo cover **140a** is in the seat upright retracted position **190** and the second cargo cover **140b** is in the seat upright extended position **192**. It should be understood that while two cargo covers **140a**, **140b** are depicted in FIG. 1, any number of cargo covers **140** are contemplated. An individual cargo cover **140** can be pivotably coupled to a single vehicle seat **120** or pivotably coupled to multiple vehicle seats **120**, for example, a row of vehicle seats **120**. In some embodiments, multiple cargo covers **140** are pivotably coupled to an individual vehicle seat **120**, for example, two cargo covers **140** pivotably coupled to a single, bench-style, third row vehicle seat **120**.

Referring still to FIG. 1, when each cargo cover **140a** and **140b** is positioned in the seat upright extended position **192** each cargo cover **140a** and **140b** covers a portion of the storage compartment opening **162**. Further, when both cargo covers **140a**, **140b** are in the seat upright extended position **192**, the storage compartment opening **162** is fully covered. In other embodiments, a single cargo cover **140** can be pivotably coupled to one or more vehicle seats **120** such that the single cargo cover **140** can cover the storage compartment opening **162** when in the seat upright extended position **192**. Other embodiments include multiple storage compartments **160**. In these embodiments, each individual storage compartment **160** can be covered by an individual or multiple cargo covers **140**.

Referring also to FIG. 2, a side view of the vehicle cargo assembly **110** is depicted including the cargo cover **140** pivotably coupled to the vehicle seat **120**. The cargo cover **140** may comprise a hard plastic material, a metal material, or the like. The cargo cover **140** includes a seat-facing surface **142**, a rear-facing surface **144**, a swinging end **141**, a pivoting end **143**, and one or more locking regions **146** (FIG. 1). The one or more locking regions **146** may be holes positioned at the swinging end **141** of the cargo cover **140** and may be a variety of shapes, such as, for example, rectangular, squared, rounded, circular, or the like, as described in more detail below.

In some embodiments, the cargo cover **140** is pivotably coupled to the vehicle seat **120** using an extendable hinge **150**. The extendable hinge **150** extends between the vehicle seat **120** near the seat folding location **138** and is coupled to the pivoting end **143** of the cargo cover **140**. The extendable hinge **150** may be coupled to the back portion **134**, the bench portion **132** of the vehicle seat **120**, and/or any other suitable location such as between the back portion **134** and the bench portion **132**. The extendable hinge **150** may comprise a foldable material, such as, for example, carpet, fabric, bendable plastic, ropes, linkages, and/or the like. In alternative embodiments, the extendable hinge **150** may comprise a rigid material (for example, having joints and/or bearings). The extendable hinge **150** allows the cargo cover **140** to be positioned above the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor in the seat upright retracted position **190** and positioned along the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112** in the seat upright extended position **192**. In alternative embodiments, the cargo cover **140** is pivotably coupled to the vehicle seat **120** using a barrel hinge, pivot hinge, or the like.

Referring still to FIGS. 1 and 2, the cargo cover **140** is pivotable between a seat upright retracted position **190** and a seat upright extended position **192**. When the cargo cover **140** is in the seat upright retracted position **190**, the cargo cover **140** is positioned along the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120** such that the seat-facing surface **142** of the cargo cover **140** faces the rear surface **136** of the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120**. The cargo cover **140** can be held in the seat upright retracted position **190** using a latch **137** coupled to the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120**. The latch **137** can engage with the cargo cover **140**, such as, for example, the one or more locking regions **146** of the cargo cover **140**. In other embodiments, the cargo cover **140** can be held in the seat upright retracted position **190** using a frictional engagement, such as a interference fit with a recessed portion of back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120** or a magnetic engagement between one or more magnets coupled to the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120** and one or more metal portions positioned on the cargo cover **140**.

When the cargo cover **140** is in the seat upright extended position **192**, the cargo cover **140** covers at least a portion of the storage compartment opening **162** and is positioned along vehicle floor **112**. In the seat upright extended position **192**, at least a portion of the rear-facing surface **144** of the cargo cover **140** is positioned along the locking surface **166** of the storage compartment **160** and the seat-facing surface **142** of the cargo cover **140** is positioned in alignment with the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**. In particular, the seat-facing surface **142** of the cargo cover **140** may be positioned in the same plane as the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**, for example, flush with the top surface **114**. In the seat upright extended position **192**, the cargo cover **140** can be positioned below the bench portion **132** of the vehicle seat **120**. The extendable hinge **150** allows the

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pivoting end **143** of the cargo cover **140** to translate in a vehicle downward direction while the pivoting end **143** pivots into the seat upright extended position **192**. For example, the pivoting end **143** may be positioned lower in the vehicle downward direction when in the seat upright extended position **192** than when in the seat upright retracted position **190**. Further, when the cargo cover **140** is in the seat upright extended position **192**, the cargo cover **140** defines a floor of the rear storage area **106** and provides a load-bearing surface covering the storage compartment **160** to allow a user to place items on the cargo cover **140**.

Referring now to FIG. 3, an exemplary embodiment of the vehicle seat **120** that can be folded into the storage compartment **160** is depicted. In this embodiment, the seat legs **122** of the vehicle seat **120** extend below the vehicle floor **112**, for example, between the bench portion **132** of the vehicle seat **120** and a storage compartment floor **164**. The seat legs **122** may further comprise an upper hinge **124**, a lower hinge **126**, and a central portion **125** disposed therebetween. The seat legs **122** are pivotable to move the vehicle seat **120** between an upright position **180** and a stored position **184**. In the upright position **180**, the seat legs **122** extend at least to the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112** and in some embodiments of the upright position **180**, the seat legs **122** extend above the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**. In the stored position **184**, the seat legs **122** are positioned below the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**, within the storage compartment **160**. In some embodiments, the back portion **134** of the vehicle seat **120** is folded onto the bench portion **132** of the vehicle seat **120** when the vehicle seat is located in the stored position **184**. To pivot the vehicle seat **120** into stored position **184**, the upper hinge **124** and the lower hinge **126** pivot the central portion **125** of the seat legs **122** into a position along the storage compartment floor **164** such that the central portion **125** is disposed between the storage compartment floor **164** and the bench portion **132** of the vehicle seat **120**. Pivoting the central portion **125** into a position along the storage compartment floor **164** moves the vehicle seat **120** into the storage compartment **160**. Further, when the back portion **134** is folded into the bench portion **132**, the vehicle seat **120** can be positioned below the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**.

Referring now to FIG. 4, the vehicle seat **120** is depicted in the stored position **184** within the storage compartment **160**. When the vehicle seat **120** is in the stored position **184**, the cargo cover **140** may be pivotable between a seat stored retracted position **194** and a seat stored extended position **196**. When the cargo cover **140** is in the seat stored retracted position **194**, the cargo cover **140** can define a floor of the rear storage area **106** and may be positioned above the vehicle seat **120**, in the vehicle heightwise direction, and along the top surface **114** of the vehicle floor **112**. When the cargo cover **140** is in the seat stored extended position **196**, the vehicle seat **120** can be uncovered and at least a portion of the cargo cover **140** can be positioned above the vehicle seat **120**. In some embodiments, when the cargo cover **140** is in the seat stored retracted position **194**, access to the vehicle seat **120** is inhibited such that a user may not be able to pivot the seat into an upright position **180**. In some embodiments, the vehicle seat **120** may be able to pivot into the upright position **180** only when the cargo cover **140** is in the seat stored extended position **196**. In other embodiments, the vehicle seat **120** may be able to pivot into the upright position **180** when the cargo cover is in either the seat stored retracted position **194** or the seat stored extended position **196**.

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Referring now to FIG. 5, a sectional view of the vehicle cargo assembly **110** depicted in FIG. 1, the cargo cover **140** is engageable with the locking surface **166** of the storage compartment **160** using one or more locking mechanisms **170**. The one or more locking mechanisms **170** may comprise a locking cylinder **172** coupled to a locking bar **174**. As depicted in FIG. 5, an individual locking cylinder **172** is coupled to and extends into the locking surface **166** of the storage compartment **160**. The locking mechanism **170** is engageable with an individual locking region **146** of the cargo cover **140** when the cargo cover **140** is in the seat upright extended position **192**. In particular, the locking bar **174** of the locking mechanism **170** can be disposed within a slot **148** of the locking region **146**, the slot **148** extending into the cargo cover from a perimeter wall **147** of the locking region **146**. As described in more detail below, the one or more locking regions **146** can engage with one or more locking mechanisms **170** to lock the cargo cover **140** over the storage compartment **160**. Further, in alternative embodiments, the locking mechanism **170** may be coupled to the cargo cover **140**. In these embodiments, the locking mechanism **170** may extend from the rear-facing surface **144** of the cargo cover **140** and the locking cylinder **172** can be locked into a recess in the locking surface **166** of the storage compartment **160** when the cargo cover **140** is in the seat upright extended position **192**.

In operation, the locking cylinder **172** of the locking mechanism **170** is rotatable within the locking surface **166**, for example, by about 90°, allowing the locking bar **174** to engage and disengage with the slot **148** of the locking region **146**. Rotating the locking cylinder **172** rotates the locking bar **174** and disposes the locking bar **174** within the slot **148**. In some embodiments, the locking mechanism **170** may be a key-locking mechanism, requiring a key to be inserted into the locking mechanism in order to rotate the locking mechanism. This allows a user to store items within the storage compartment **160** that can only be accessed by unlocking the locking mechanism **170** with a key. In other embodiments, the locking mechanism **170** may require an alphanumeric combination to be entered to unlock the locking mechanism. In further embodiments, the locking mechanism **170** may further comprise a fingerprint identification device that can analyze a received fingerprint and unlock the locking mechanism **170** only if the received fingerprint matches a stored user fingerprint. While the locking mechanism is **170** is described having the locking cylinder **172** and the locking bar **174**, it should be understood that other types of locking mechanisms are contemplated. For example, the locking mechanism **170** may comprise a fastener mechanism, a mechanism facilitating frictional engagement, a magnetic mechanism, or the like.

It should now be understood that vehicles incorporating vehicle cargo assemblies can include cargo covers pivotably coupled to vehicle seats positioned adjacent storage compartments that extend below a top surface of a vehicle floor. The cargo covers can be pivoted between a seat upright retracted position and a seat upright extended position to optionally cover the storage compartment opening. In the seat upright retracted position, the cargo cover is positioned along the back portion of the vehicle seat. In the seat upright extended position, the cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment and is positioned along the top surface of the vehicle floor. In particular, the rear-facing surface of the cargo cover engages with a locking surface of the storage compartment and the seat-facing surface of the cargo cover is aligned with the top surface of the vehicle floor. Further, the vehicle cargo assembly includes an extendable hinge

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extending between the vehicle seat and the cargo cover. The extendable hinge allows the cargo cover to be positioned above the top surface of the vehicle floor in the seat upright retracted position and along the top surface of the vehicle floor in the seat upright extended position.

Directional terms used herein—for example widthwise, lengthwise, vertical, up, down, right, left, front, back, top, bottom, upper, lower—are made only to supply directional context. For example, the terms “extending vertically” or “extending generally vertically” are not meant to exclude a vertically and horizontally extending component.

While particular embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it should be understood that various other changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the claimed subject matter. Moreover, although various aspects of the claimed subject matter have been described herein, such aspects need not be utilized in combination. It is therefore intended that the appended claims cover all such changes and modifications that are within the scope of the claimed subject matter.

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle cargo assembly comprising:
a vehicle floor having a top surface;
a storage compartment having an opening at the top surface of the vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor;
a vehicle seat having a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion at a seat folding location; and
a cargo cover coupled to the vehicle seat and pivotable between a seat upright extended position and a seat upright retracted position, wherein when the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position the cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment and is positioned below a bench portion of the vehicle seat.
2. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the vehicle seat is moveable between an upright position, wherein the vehicle seat is positioned adjacent to the storage compartment, and a stored position, wherein the vehicle seat is positioned within the storage compartment.
3. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 2, further comprising one or more seat legs extending between the bench portion and a storage compartment floor, the one or more seat legs pivotably coupled to the bench portion and pivotably coupled to the storage compartment floor such that the vehicle seat can be pivoted between the upright position and the stored position.
4. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 2, wherein when the vehicle seat is in the stored position, the cargo cover is pivotable between a seat stored retracted position and a seat stored extended position.
5. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein when the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position, a seat-facing surface of the cargo cover is aligned with the top surface of the vehicle floor.
6. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein when the cargo cover is in the seat upright retracted position, the cargo cover is positioned along the back portion of the vehicle seat.
7. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 1, wherein the storage compartment further comprises a locking surface engageable with the cargo cover.
8. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 7 further comprising a locking mechanism coupled to the locking surface of the storage compartment and securely engageable with the cargo cover.

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9. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 1 further comprising an extendable hinge pivotably coupling the cargo cover to the vehicle seat.

10. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 9, wherein the cargo cover includes a pivoting end and a swinging end wherein the pivoting end is coupled to the extendable hinge.

11. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 10, wherein the swinging end of the cargo cover is removably attachable to the back portion of the vehicle seat when the cargo cover is in the seat upright retracted position using a fastener engagement, a frictional engagement, or a magnetic engagement.

12. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 10, wherein the pivoting end of the cargo cover is positioned lower in a vehicle downward direction when positioned in the seat upright extended position than when positioned in the seat upright retracted position.

13. A vehicle cargo assembly comprising:

a vehicle floor having a top surface;

a storage compartment having an opening at the top surface of the vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor;

a vehicle seat comprising a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion at a seat folding location; one or more seat legs extending between the bench portion and a storage compartment floor, the one or more seat legs pivotably coupled to the bench portion and pivotably coupled to the storage compartment floor such that the vehicle seat is moveable between an upright position, wherein the vehicle seat is positioned adjacent the storage compartment, and a stored position, wherein the vehicle seat is positioned within the storage compartment; and

a cargo cover coupled to the vehicle seat and pivotable between a seat upright extended position and a seat upright retracted position when the vehicle seat is positioned in the upright position;

wherein the cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment and is positioned below a bench portion of the vehicle seat when positioned in the seat upright extended position and the cargo cover is positioned along the back portion of the vehicle seat when positioned in the seat upright retracted position.

14. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 13, wherein the cargo cover is pivotable between a seat stored extended position and a seat stored retracted position when the vehicle seat is positioned in the stored position.

15. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 13, wherein when the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position the cargo cover extends in a plane of the vehicle floor.

16. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 13 further comprising an extendable hinge that pivotably couples the cargo cover to the vehicle seat.

17. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim 16, wherein the cargo cover includes a pivoting end coupled to the extendable hinge, the pivoting end positioned lower in a vehicle downward direction when the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position than when the cargo cover is in the seat upright retracted position.

18. A vehicle cargo assembly comprising:

a cargo cover pivotably coupled to a vehicle seat using an extendable hinge; and

a storage compartment having an opening at a top surface of a vehicle floor and extending below the top surface of the vehicle floor, the storage compartment positioned behind the vehicle seat when the vehicle seat is in an upright position, the storage compartment having a locking surface engageable with the cargo cover;

wherein the cargo cover is pivotable between a seat upright retracted position and a seat upright extended position when the vehicle seat is in the upright position, wherein when the cargo cover is in the seat upright extended position the cargo cover covers the opening of the storage compartment and extends in a plane of the vehicle floor; and

wherein the vehicle seat is foldable into a stored position within the storage compartment and the cargo cover is pivotable between a seat stored retracted position and a seat stored extended position when the vehicle seat is in the stored position.

19. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim **18**, wherein the vehicle seat further comprises a back portion pivotably coupled to a bench portion at a seat folding location and one or more seat legs extending between the bench portion and a storage compartment floor, the one or more seat legs pivotably coupled to the bench portion and pivotably coupled to the storage compartment floor such that the vehicle seat can be pivoted between the upright position and the stored position.

20. The vehicle cargo assembly of claim **18**, wherein the cargo cover includes a pivoting end and a swinging end, wherein the pivoting end is coupled to the extendable hinge and the pivoting end is positioned lower in a vehicle downward direction when positioned in the seat upright extended position than when positioned in the seat upright retracted position.

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